

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/981,207

Examiner

Robert N. Kang

Applicant(s)

HASEGAWA, SATOSHI

Art Unit

2625



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Applicant's RCE mailed 6/01/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 13-16.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

  
TWYLER LAMB  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Response to Amendment***

***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. Claims 13-16 are allowed. They are re-numbered as claims 1-4.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Examiner finds no prior art of record which utilizes multiple logic(s) to encode an identification code for a print consumable, further recording a drum usage counter corresponding to each specific logic, and yet further comparing the drum count to a single limit for the threshold, determining usability and authenticity based upon these three security checks.

The most relevant prior art of record with regards to the multiple logic codes is the applicant's earlier patent no. 6,597,875, which utilizes a programmable logic device to change the logic code. While rolling security codes are a well-known invention in the security industry, Examiner finds no prior art which uses a rolling security code corresponding to the consumable usage value of a print cartridge; further, the Examiner finds no art which utilizes said security measures with a system which disallows the use of a cartridge after said use amount has exceeded a pre-set threshold.

Naka (US-PAT 6,672,695) discloses storing a unique identification code and use amount with each consumable, however, Naka fails to disclose any sort of logic for encoding said identification code, much less utilizing the identification code as a logic to encode the normal response code as disclosed by the Applicant's invention.

Furthermore, Naka does not teach disabling the use of a cartridge after said use amount has exceeded a pre-set threshold.

Cusey (US-PAT 6,986,057) discloses a printer security device which records the page (or other measurement) count for each page (or other measurement) printed from the consumable, and disables the print cartridge when the page count exceeds a maximum threshold.

While the original claims were rejected as being an obvious modification of the '875 Hasegawa patent in view of Naka, the addition of the maximum print threshold, while seemingly elementary, places the case in condition for allowance over the original double-patenting rejection.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

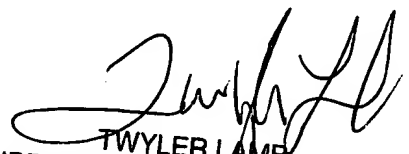
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert N. Kang whose telephone number is 571-272-0593. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler M. Lamb can be reached on (571)272-7406. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



RNK



TWYLER LAMB  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER